Keep a diary

DIGITAL
SHUEISHA MARGARET COMICS

WHY DON'T WE KEEP A DIARY TOGETHER?
A DIARY?
YES
AS A MARK OF OUR FRIENDSHIP.

She keeps the diary…

MY NAME IS ARISA,
NAGA-HAMA ARISA.
AND THIS IS MY BEST FRIEND, KANO SUMIRE.
WE'RE BOTH IN OUR FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.
EVER SINCE WE WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL,
DIARY
THE TWO OF US HAVE SHARED A PRIVATE DIARY.

I VERY MUCH BELIEVE
THAT A RECORD OF OUR WRITINGS WILL BRING US A LOT OF PLEASURE AND HAPPINESS
WHAT IS WRITTEN CAN OFTEN PRESENT A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON AN EVERYDAY EVENT
THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF ARISA'S WRITING
OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY OFTEN ASK US WHY WE DON'T WRITE EMAILS TO EACH OTHER INSTEAD.
THEY HAVE A POINT,
BUT WE STILL CONTINUE TO WRITE IN OUR DIARY.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHY?

SOME PEOPLE ENVY OUR RELATION-SHIP.
THIS IS ESPECIALLY THE CASE OF KOREEDA-KUN FROM THE NEIGHBOURING CLASS.
WELL,
THE TWO OF YOU ARE ALREADY WELL ON THE WAY TO BECOMING BEST FRIENDS FOR LIFE, RIGHT?
EH!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "FAMOUS"?
YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER THE FACT THAT HER PARTNER IS THE FAMOUS NAGAHAMA ARISA
BESIDES,
AH...
15th Prize of th
Young Literatur
Talent
BAM

Keep a diary

YOU... YOU KNEW, KOREEDA-KUN?
IT'S NOT THAT SURPRISING...
I WAS READING THROUGH THE REVIEWS, JUST LIKE I ALWAYS DO WHEN I SUDDENLY CAME ACROSS YOUR NAME.
IN ANY CASE,
I WOULD IMAGINE YOUR FRIEND FEELS DAMN LUCKY
AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE DIARIES WITH AN UP-AND-COMING NOVELIST ISN'T SOMETHING THAT JUST HAPPENS EVERYDAY
.....
THAT MAY BE TRUE,
BUT IT WASN'T SOMETHING WE STARTED FOR ANY REASON IN PARTICULAR
NAGAHAMA-SAN

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL,
I WAS ALWAYS ALONE AND NOT VERY TALKATIVE.
IT WAS SUMIRE WHO SPONTANEOUSLY APPROACHED ME ONE DAY.
NAGA HAMA-SAN
WHAT ARE YOU READ-ING? IS IT INTEREST-ING?
EH. WELL...
I LIKE READING A LOT AS WELL.
P...
.....
WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK?
.....
... A SHARED DIARY?
YES
AS A MARK OF OUR FRIEND-SHIP
ARISA-SAN,
YOU REALLY LIKE TO WRITE, RIGHT?

IF YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH SPEAKING OUT LOUD, WE CAN SPEAK THROUGH A DIARY INSTEAD.
WHEN WE ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL, IT TURNED OUT WE HAD CHOSEN THE SAME SCHOOL AND WERE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN
MOREOVER, WE WERE ALSO IN THE SAME CLASS!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
THANKS TO SUMIRE I LEARNT TO LIKE MYSELF FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
OUR MEETING WAS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, PREDESTINED.
I ALSO CAME TO DISCOVER HOW MUCH FUN IT COULD BE TO WRITE FOR OTHERS.
DEAR SUMIRE,
TODAY, MY THOUGHTS WENT BACK TO THE TIME WE STARTED WRITING IN THIS DIARY AGAIN.
BEING ABLE TO GROW AS A PERSON LIKE THIS
IS SOMETHING I COULDN'T HAVE DONE WITHOUT YOUR HELP
BUT...

SUMIRE HAS BEEN A LITTLE STRANGE RECENTLY.

TADAAA!
THEY GAVE YOU A MOBILE PHONE, ARISA?
OF COURSE THIS WON'T STOP US FROM CONTINUING OUR DIARY!
BUT ACTU-ALLY
YOU SHOULD GET A MOBILE PHONE AS WELL.
EVERYONE IN OUR CLASS HAS ONE.
MY FATHER BOUGHT IT FOR ME AS A REWARD FOR WINNING THE PRIZE!
YEAH!
AH!
WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK TO YOUR FATHER ABOUT IT...
ARISA...

I DIDN'T WANT TO BRING IT UP WITH YOU, BUT...
MY PARENTS GOT DIVORCED LAST YEAR
I JUST GOT A NEW FATHER
I SEE.
I UNDERSTAND WHY SHE'S BEEN SO UNHAPPY.
SO THAT'S WHY SUMIRE HAS SEEMED SO TROUBLED RECENTLY.
I'VE PROBABLY HURT HER
I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO FELT HAPPY
. AND I ACTED JUST LIKE AN IDIOT.
.....

I WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR FRIEND.
FOREVER
SUMIRE,
BOTH OF US ARE
AH!
BEST FRIENDS, RIGHT?
AND EVER,
SHE'S READING THE DIARY...

TO BE HONEST,
THE THOUGHT OF BEING THERE FOR SUMIRE DIDN'T ENTER MY MIND AT THE TIME.
Dear Arisa,
Thank you and forgive me for making you worry. It was you who helped me overcome these problems.
WHENEVER I THINK BACK TO THAT MOMENT, MY TEARS JUST START TO FLOW.
OF COURSE, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ERASE ALL OF SUMIRE'S WORRIES,
BUT
I DO HOPE THAT THIS DIARY CAN HELP KEEP HER KEEPING MOVING FORWARD.
I WANT TO BE THERE FOR HER TOO.
DAM
!

IS THIS THE PUBLISHING HOUSE..?
YES THIS IS NAGA-HAMA
YES..
WHAT?
..OF COURSE!
YES...
YOU WANT A MANU-SCRIPT FROM ME?!
YES!
NAGAHAMA-SAN!

ARISA
YES?
JUST NOW,
WHAT WERE TALKING ABOUT WITH THOSE TWO?
OH,
THEY READ WHAT I WROTE
THEY TOLD ME THEY WERE EAGERLY WAITING FOR THE SEQUEL.
THAT'S ALL?
EH?
I SAW.
YOU WERE ALL EXCHANGING PHONE NUMBERS AS WELL.
AH, YEAH.
THEY ASKED ME FOR IT, SO..
DID YOU FORGET TO WRITE YOUR DIARY ENTRY FOR YESTERDAY?

.....
MAKE SURE TO BRING IT IN TOMO-RROW!
I SEE.
WELL, YOU SEE .. YESTERDAY EVENING, I HAD TO WORK ON..
YOU SHOULDN'T SIMPLY PRIOR ITISE YOUR RELATION-SHIP WITH ME.
IT'S A PITY TO CLOSE YOURSELF OFF SO MUCH
HEY,
WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL?
THEY'RE ALWAYS REALLY NICE WHEN I TALK TO THEM.
I HATE GUYS.
NO
KOREEDA-KUN FROM CLASS 2.
ESPE-CIALLY
I DON'T NEED ANYONE ELSE
AS LONG AS YOU'RE WITH ME,

IS THAT REALLY A REASON FOR HER TO SPEAK TO ME LIKE THAT?
BUT
IT MAKES ME HAPPY TO HEAR THAT SUMIRE FINDS ME SO IMPORTANT,
Dear Sumire
I SIMPLY WANT
HER TO FEEL BETTER...
!
Koreeda
want to speak to you You have a minute?
Respond
Bak
..WHY
HAVEN'T YOU WRITTEN ANYTHING?

S, SORRY...
TO BE HONEST I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO WRITE...
YOU SAID THE SAME THING
LAST WEEK...
WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
DAMN...
AH...
S...
SORRY, ARISA...
ER...
I...
IT'S JUST THAT...
BAK
CRACK

I'VE BEEN VERY STRESSED RECENTLY...
...AND ARISA, YOU...
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEND TIME WITH ME ANYMORE...
AHH
AHH
WAAAAH
.....
IN MY OPINION,
Library

SHOULD I RESPOND TO HER DEMANDS?
BUT THAT'S NOT A REASON FOR HER TO TRY AND CONTROL MY LIFE LIKE THAT
...IS THIS A REAL FRIEND-SHIP?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S FEELING ANYMORE...
I,
PERSONALLY, I UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S FEELING VERY WELL.
YOUR FRIEND SEES YOU AS HER ONLY PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT
WITH YOUR NEW FRIENDS AND NEW-BORN CAREER AS A WRITER
SHE IS MOST LIKELY EXPERIENCING A LOT OF MENTAL STRESS FROM SEEING YOU DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM HER

I CAN'T IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT YOU
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU UP TO ANYONE ELSE
INSTEAD OF LETTING ANYONE ELSE TAKE YOU I'M PREPARED TO..
..DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?

SLAPS
...SORRY.
THE STRESS YOUR FRIEND IS FEELING IS PROBABLY BEING MADE WORSE BY OTHER ISSUES IN HER LIFE
YOU COULD START BY IDENTIFYING THE ORIGIN OF THESE PROBLEMS.
THIS MIGHT TAKE TIME, BUT...
ALL THAT I CAN SAY IS...
YOUR FRIEND NEEDS YOU BY HER SIDE.

THE TWO OF YOU WILL GET THROUGH IT
IF YOUR FRIENDSHIP IS SINCERE
...HEY, KOREEDA-KUN,
WE'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE IN THE LIBRARY, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO ONE HERE
NO ONE BESIDES THE TWO OF US.
OKAY
THAT'S GOOD
...I LIKE IT BETTER THAT WAY.
CLAT!
NOBODY COULD SEE US

Splat
Hiiii
iii!!

Splatch
Splatch
Splatch

Lele
EVERYTHING IS ALRIGHT NOW.
HE WON'T MOVE ANYMORE.
I COULD TELL HE WAS A LITTLE STRANGE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
I WARNED YOU HE ONLY WANTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU PHYSICALLY
AND THAT YOU WOULD BE FOOLED BY HIM.
..I WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG!
..IT'S A GOOD THING I ARRIVED ON TIME,
I
COULD NEVER LET SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HAPPEN TO YOU.
Swish

Tap
ARISA!
!
ARISA!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
Klat

ARISA?!
STT
OOO
P!!
ARISA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Broooo

.....
...ARISA,
WHY WOULD YOU..
THAT DIARY WAS OUR TREA-SURE...
NO.
ALL IT DOES IS MAKE YOU SUFFER.
...NOW

WITH THIS, WE'RE FINISHED
OKAY?
SUMIRE

ARISA,
ARISA, I'M BEGGING YOU,
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I BELONG ANYMORE.
KEEPING THAT DIARY WITH YOU, THAT WAS MY SOLE PLEASURE IN LIFE
NEITHER AT HOME NOR AT SCHOOL...
I NEED YOU.

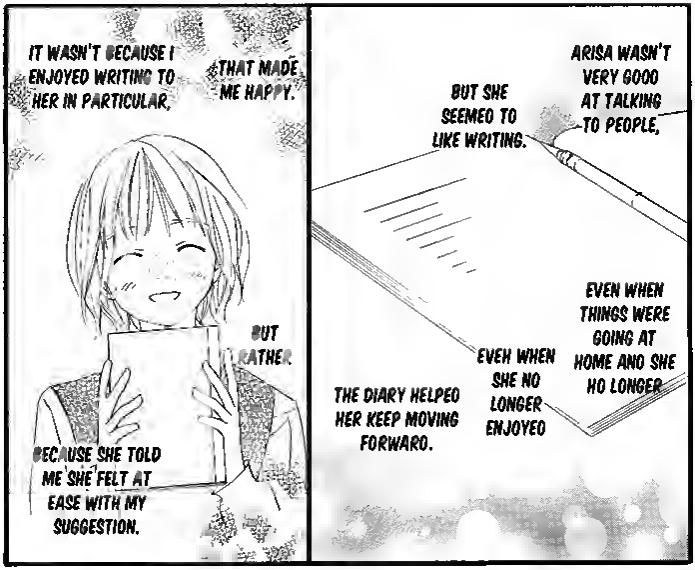
.....
CAN YOU REPEAT THAT?
ARISA, I NEED YOU.
I NEED YOU, ARISA.
SUMIRE NEEDS...
I NEED YOU, ARISA.
ME ...

1-3
Sumire needs me. Sumire Needs me
Sumire Needs me. Sumire needs me. Sumire
Sumire needs me. Sumire Needs me Sumire needs me.
Sumire needs me. Sumire needs me. Sumire Needs
me. Sumire Needs me Sumire needs
Sumire needs me. Sumire needs me. Sumire
me. Sumire needs
Sumire Needs
DIARY

WHAT ...
WHAT IS THIS?
A DIARY?
IT FELL OUT OF ARISA'S DESK.
ARISA... IS A WRITER?!
SHE SAYS I STILL CONTINUE TO KEEP A DIARY WITH HER?
EH?
I BEGGED TO HER ABOUT KOREEDA?!
...BUT
ALL OF THE THINGS WRITTEN
ARE JUST HER FANTASIES!

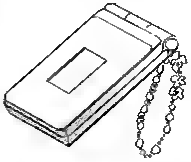
AH...
I'M SORRY! THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU THINK...
I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR SOMETHING I FORGOT
WHEN I BUMPED INTO YOUR DESK BY ACCIDENT...
.....
ARI-SA!
HIIII...
SUMIRE
YOU WERE TAKING A WHILE SO WE CAME TO LOOK FOR YOU.
.....
DID YOU CALL FOR NAGAHAMA USING HER FIRST NAME JUST NOW?

SUMIRE,
SINCE WHEN WERE YOU FRIENDS WITH HER?
ARISA-CHAN,
.....
DURING OUR SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL,
I MADE THIS SUGGESTION TO ARISA, WHOM HAD STAYED ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE CLASS.
WHY DON'T WE KEEP A DIARY TOGETHER?
IT'LL BE A MARK OF OUR FRIEND-SHIP,
ARISA-CHAN.
SHE SEEMED REALLY SAD BACK THEN.
ALWAYS ALONE, HEAD LOWERED.
YOU LIKE TO WRITE, DON'T YOU?


IT WASN'T BECAUSE I ENJOYED WRITING TO HER IN PARTICULAR,
THAT MADE ME HAPPY.
BUT RATHER
BECAUSE SHE TOLD ME SHE FELT AT EASE WITH MY SUGGESTION.
ARISA WASN'T VERY GOOD AT TALKING TO PEOPLE,
BUT SHE SEEMED TO LIKE WRITING.
EVEN WHEN THINGS WERE GOING AT HOME AND SHE NO LONGER
EVEN WHEN SHE NO LONGER ENJOYED
THE DIARY HELPED HER KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

DUE TO CHANGES AS WE ENTERED THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR, WE NOT ONLY FOUND OURSELVES IN DIFFERENT CLASSES,

BUT I ALSO GOT A MOBILE PHONE.



SUMIRE!
I'M SO GLAD I FOUND YOU..
I'VE HAD SOME TROUBLE FINDING A GOOD TIME TO PASS THIS BACK TO YOU RECENTLY..
HERE THE DIARY..
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULDN'T GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO WRITE AS WELL..
AH!
..OH?
GOOD..
ALRIGHT..
I'M GOING TO GO NOW..
SUMIRE, YOU SHARE DIARIES?
WITH THAT GIRL?
WELL~
I DID TOO, BACK WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!
I PUT AN END TO OUR DIARY.
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT ARISA MAKING NEW FRIENDS, RATHER
IT SEEMED SHE HAD BECOME A VICTIM TO BULLIES IN HER CLASS.

I DECIDED TO HEAD HOME USING THE EXIT AT THE BACK.
YES...
COULD YOU DO THAT, PLEASE?
FROM THAT DAY FORTH
I PRETENDED NOT TO SEE HER, PRETENDED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING THERE TO SEE.
THERE, LOOK!
SUMIRE SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU RIGHT?
DO YOU WANT US TO GO AHEAD AND GIVE YOU SOME TIME ALONE WITH HER?
AH!
SERIOUSLY SHE'S REALLY CREEPY
Lala
SHE JUST RANDOMLY STARTS TO LAUGH EVERY NOW AND THEN
NAGAHAMA SPENDS ALL HER TIME WRITING IN THAT BOOK OF HERS...
IT'S REALLY WEIRD,
WE WENT TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL,
BUT WE NEVER SPOKE TO EACH OTHER
...I DON'T KNOW
WAS SHE ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
DIDN'T YOU GO TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL AS NAGAHAMA SUMIRE?
ACTUALLY

DON'T.
IF SOMEONE WERE TO SEE US..
I DON'T CARE, LET ME KISS YOU
WE'RE GOING OUT, AREN'T WE?
WE SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS HERE
FLAF
WHERE DID THAT GIRL COME FROM..
ARISA.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
YOU FAT PIG!!

THAT NAGAHAMA IS SUCH A WEIRDO! SHE BUMPED INTO ME AND DIDN'T EVEN OFFER ANY WORDS OF EXCUSE
WELL YEAH IT'S BECAUSE SHE ACTS THAT WAY THAT NO-ONE WANTS TO APPROACH HER
She's starting to get on my nerves
I CAN EASILY IMAGINE SOMEONE LIKE HER GETTING HERSELF ALL WORKED UP
A GIRL LIKE HER,
ACTUALLY, I SAW HER GO UP THE STAIRS LEADING TO THE ROOFTOP.
SHE'S PROBABLY THE TYPE TO SAY THINGS LIKE "NOBODY CAN UNDERSTAND ME!" TO HERSELF
YOU THINK SHE WANTS TO SUICIDE?

Giiii
.....

SHE'S HERE...
ARISA...
.....
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

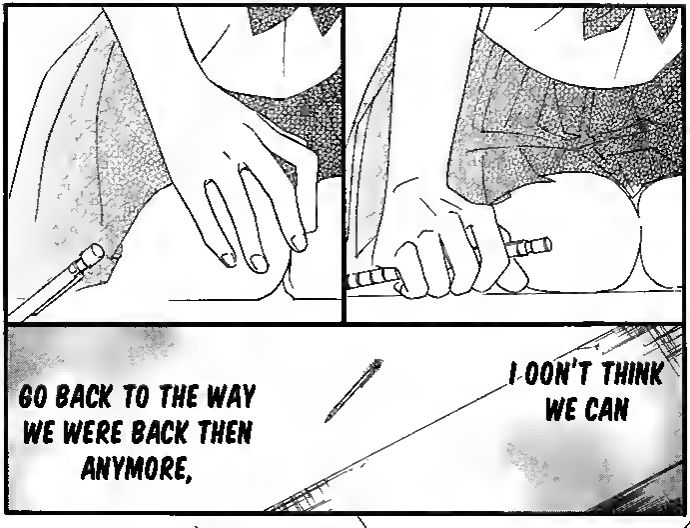
...SUMIRE,
YOU READ MY DIARY, DIDN'T YOU?
.....
DO I DISGUST YOU?
DO YOU THINK I'M CRAZY?
WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT
I KNOW
I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY MIND

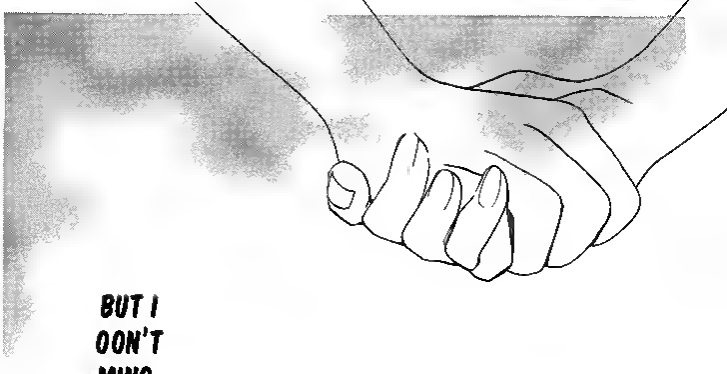
JUST
IF I DON'T,
I FEEL EMPTY
THE THOUGHT OF NOT WRITING IN THE DIARY ANYMORE HURTS ME
I NEED TO WRITE
I HAVE NO CHOICE

Rip
Rip

ARISA,
I NEED YOU.
I STILL NEED
TO GIVE YOU MY EXCUSES.

Keep a diary


GO BACK TO THE WAY WE WERE BACK THEN ANYMORE,
I OON'T THINK WE CAN


BUT I OON'T MIND.

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隣の彼方

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